

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/810,986

Applicant(s)

KRALL ET AL.

Examiner

Suzanne E. McDowell

Art Unit

1732

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to ____.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 15-28 (renumbered as 1-14 respectively).
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 25 March 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 3/25/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date ____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other ____.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest, in a shuttle blow molding method or apparatus for blow molding containers from thermoplastic material, wherein the apparatus has a first mold with a first set of mold halves that define a plurality of first mold cavities when closed, a second mold with a second set of mold halves that define a plurality of second mold cavities when closed, and an extruder for continuously extruding a spaced apart plurality of tubes of thermoplastic material downwardly along a vertical axis, and wherein the first and second mold halves engage a plurality of first finite lengths of the tube for blowing, the apparatus means for moving the first mold along a first closed path to present the first mold at a first mold position to engage the tubes and moving the first mold from a first position to a second position as the tubes are blown, and means for moving the second mold along a second closed path to present the second mold at a first position to engage the tubes and moving the second mold from a first position to a second position as the second tubes are blown where the first position of the first closed path and the first position of the second closed path are the same, and the second position of the first closed path and the second position of the second closed path are the same, and the method of using such apparatus means.

Close prior art is Krall et al. (US Patent 6,471,907) which teaches a shuttle blow molding method and apparatus, but teaches that the second mold set engages the extruded material at an elevation above the first mold set, and teaches that the apparatus means moves the first mold set and second mold set in a vertical plane along a quadrilateral path. Krall et al. (US Patent 6,730,257) is also of interest, but does not fairly suggest a double patenting rejection as it is not obvious to apply it to a spaced apart plurality of tubes. Also of interest are Mills et al. (US Patent 5,681,596); Meyer (US Patent 5,976,452); and Frohn et al. (US Patent 3,998,576).*

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Art Unit: 1732

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Suzanne E. McDowell whose telephone number is (571) 272-1205. The examiner can normally be reached on M, W, Th 6:30-4.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael P. Colaianni can be reached on (571) 272-1196. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

SEM
December 13, 2004

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Suzanne E. McDowell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

SUZANNE E. MCDOWELL
PRIMARY EXAMINER